



April 17, 2005

Rhetoric:

"Here's what the Senate rules are and have been for I think centuries, two-thirds of the senate should vote to change the rules"

Senator Schumer, ABC This Week, April 17, 2005

Facts:

The text of the Senate rules may be amended by a simple majority vote. Amending the text never requires more than that. Cloture on a rules text amendment requires two-thirds present and voting (Rule XXII, paragraph 2), but the two-thirds vote is not needed to amend the text itself.

Precedents affected in Senate procedure may also be established by majority vote.

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